



CE MARKING

OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FOR THE EUROPEAN MARKET

BTTG can help manufacturers, agents and distributors of PPE to "CE" mark their products so that they can be offered for sale legally within the European member states. BTTG can offer this service because it has Notified Body status recognised by the European Commission based in Brussels. Our Notified Body identification numbers are 0338 and 0339. When we issue EC Type-Examination Certificates to clients thus permitting them to "CE" mark their PPE, one of these ID numbers will be on the certificate which also identifies the PPE and the harmonised standard(s) or technical specification it has been found to meet.

If an article is designed to be worn and is claimed to offer some specific protection to the wearer it is almost certainly classed as PPE falling within the scope of European Directive 89/686/EEC. Depending upon what hazard(s) the PPE is designed to protect against it will be classed as either Category I (Simple Design), Category II (neither Simple nor Complex Design) or Category III (Complex Design). For example, clothing which is designed to provide protection against "mechanical action, the effects of which are superficial" is Category I and clothing that is designed to protect in "high temperature environments, the effects of which are comparable to those of an air temperature of 100 degrees centigrade or more...." is Category III.

The categorisation determines the choice of CE-certification procedures and whether these must be linked to PPE production conformity checking. The flow chart set out below shows the sequence of actions that must be undertaken so that the manufacturer can apply the CE-mark to its PPE. Explanations of some important aspects of the certification process are as follows:

Harmonised Standards - EN or EN ISO standards, mainly performance specifications for specific types of PPE that have been published in the Official Journal of the European Union. Compliance with these standards is the usual but not obligatory route to CE-certification.

Technical Specifications - usually chosen by manufacturers when harmonised standards do not exist, are still in draft form or do not fully align with the protection that the manufacturer is claiming and/or the design of their PPE. This is the alternative route to CE-certification.

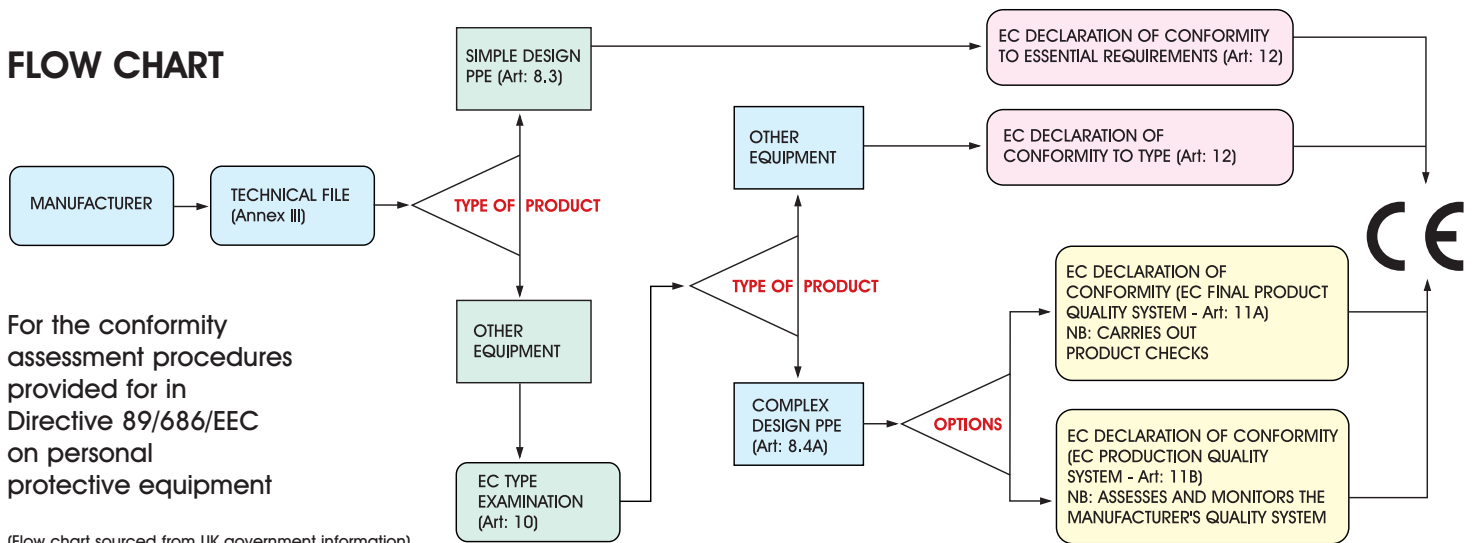
Tasks for Notified Bodies - to undertake EC Type-Examination of Category II or III PPE according to Article 10 of Directive 89/686/EEC, to check production conformity of Category III PPE according to Article 11 of this directive and to determine if the manufacturer's technical specification complies with the Basic Health and Safety Requirements of this directive.

Basic Health and Safety Requirements - these are in Annex II of Directive 89/686/EEC and set out firstly the requirements applicable to all PPE, then additional requirements common to several classes of PPE and finally additional requirements specific to particular risks.

Technical File - the documentation created by the manufacturer according to the content set out in Annex III of Directive 89/686/EEC.

EC Declaration of Conformity - the written statement that the manufacturer must make and retain with their technical documentation, the content of which must comply with Annex VI of Directive 89/686/EEC. This declaration must be made after the manufacturer has received, if appropriate, the EC Type- Examination Certificate and also chosen the Notified Body to undertake checking of PPE production conformity.

FLOW CHART



(Flow chart sourced from UK government information)

For the conformity assessment procedures provided for in Directive 89/686/EEC on personal protective equipment

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